(c) and (d) There is no such proposal before the Government at present.

Statement

Public order being a State subject it is for the State Governments concerned to devise various methods to take concrete steps to improve law and order situation, provide adequate security to the citizens as well as wherever necessary extend financial and other assistance to the victims. Accordingly, some State Governments have schemes for payment or ex-gratia relief to the victims of tragedies like-bomb blasts, fire, riots and other accidents. At the Central level compensation is paid in the event of rali, and Air accidents as under:

Rail accidents: Under the Railways Act, 1989 there is provision for payment of a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs in case of death or total disability and a minimum of Rs. 16,000/- to a maximum of Rs. 1,80,000/- for various kinds of injuries.

Air accidents:

(1) In the event of death of a passenger or any bodily injury or bound suffered by a passenger which results in a permanent disablement in-capacitating him from engaging in or being occupied with his usual duties, or business or occupation, the liability of the carrier for each passenger shall be Rs. 5 lakhs if the passenger is 12 or more years of age, and Rs. 2.5 lakhs if the passenger is below 12 years of age on the date of accident.

(2) In the event of wounding of a passenger or any bodily injury suffered by the passenger which results in a temporary disablement preventing an injured passenger from attending to his usual duties or business or occupation, the liability of the carrier for each passenger shall be limited to a sum calculated at the rate of Rs. 500/- per day, the period during which he continues to be so disabled or a sum of Rs. 1 lakh whichever is less.

Taking out children abroad

4120. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of children are being taken out abroad on adoption every year from orphanage houses from Maharashtra and other States;

(b) if so, what are the details regarding the magnitude of the problem Statewise at all India level;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints in this regard, if so, details thereof; and

(d) details of action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Release of criminals for want of evidence

4121. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend or redraft present criminal procedure code in view of the changed atmosphere of the country where a large number of criminals are being released for want of evidence;

(b) whether in most of the cases the evidence is not being recorded because the witnesses are being threatened by criminals with dire consequences and as such having committed a crime, most of the criminals are getting released; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) A Conference of Chief Ministers was held on

13th November, 1992 at New Delhi to discuss the various issues pertaining to the Administration of Criminal Justice. The Conference *inter-alia* endorsed a time bound programme for adoption in respect of—

(i) Amendment of Cr.P.C., IPC, and Evidence Act, to remedy the weaknesses and shortcomings found in their operations;

(ii) Exploring possibilities of improvements in procedures to ensure speedy trial in Courts;

(iii) Setting up of Directorates of Prosecution to effectively supervise the investigation and prosecution;

(iv) Training of investigative officers, judicial officials and prosecutors at various levels;

(v) Exploring alternatives to prison sentences by de-penalisation and de-institutionalisation;

(vi) Securing redress to victims of crime; and

(vii) Reduction in overcrowding in jails by streamlining the bail provisions.

The Conference also decided to set up a Steering Group comprising the Union Home Minister, concerned Central Ministers and some Chief Ministers to continuously monitor the implementation of the several major proposals contained in the agenda for the Conference.

The Steering Committee will consider the various proposals and make suggestions for appropriate action by the Government.

(b) No statistical data are available in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

Rail Fare concession to retired personnel of A.P. Special Police Force

4122. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware that A.P. Special Police Force is not paying Rail fare concession to its personnel on their retirement to reach their native place;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether the Central Government would direct the authorities to take corrective steps in the matter so that morale of police force fighting with Naxalites is not undermined;

(c) what is the number of pending cases for claiming RFC on retirement at present with the commandant APSP Hyderabad; and

(d) by when these valient protectors of peace will be given RFC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d) 'Police' is a State subject. Decisions regarding payment of Rail fare concession to State Police personnel are entirely within the purview of the State Government.

Development of border area of Banaskantha District in Gujarat

4123. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any consideration to develop border areas of Banaskantha District in Gujarat;

(b) whether Government have considered to provide telephone, power (Electricity), water and other facilities on priority basis; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) The border Area Development programme was taken up during 1986-87 with the objective of achieving an integrated develop-